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REPORT

— OF THE —

ADJUTANT-GENERAL

— TO THE —

25TH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT,

(SILVER ANNIVERSARY.)

* G. A. R., *

Detroit, Michigan, August 5, 1891.

RUTLAND, VT.:
THE TUTTLE COMPANY, PRINTERS.
1891.

REPORT
OF THE
ADJUTANT-GENERAL

TO THE
TWENTY-FIFTH NATIONAL ENCAMPMENT,

(SILVER ANNIVERSARY,)

G. A. R.

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Report of the Adjutant General.

HEADQUARTERS GRAND ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC,
ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE, }
RUTLAND, August 1, 1891. }

WHEELOCK G. VEAZEY,

Commander-in-Chief, G. A. R.

COMRADE : I have the honor to submit the following report of the Adjutant General's Department, Grand Army of the Republic, for the year of your administration, as follows:

When you assumed command at Boston, August 14, 1890, there were borne upon the rolls of the order, 44 Departments with 7185 Posts and 397,941 Comrades in good standing. The consolidated Report of the Adjutant General for the period ending June 30, 1891, as far as the returns have been received, not all yet being in, shows in good standing: 45 Departments with 7,409 Posts and 398,067 Comrades in good standing. The sum expended in charity as reported for the year ending June 30, 1890, was \$217,957.54, relieving 21,634 persons; for the year ending June 30, 1891, \$333,699 85. The total number of deaths reported for the year ending June 30, 1890, was 5479, for the year ending June 30, 1891, was 5530.

The following tables give detailed summaries of the reports for the successive quarters as specified therein, up to the 31st of December, 1890, when the semi-annual system took effect, the period ending June 30, 1891, being the first one so reported.

DEPARTMENTS.

	June 30, 1890.			Sept., 1890.			Dec. 31, 1890.			June 30, 1891.			Gains since June 30, '90			Losses since June 30, '90			Net gain since June 30, '90		
	Posts.	Members.		Posts.	Members.		Posts.	Members.		Posts.	Members.		Posts.	Members.		Posts.	Members.		Posts.	Members.	
Alabama.....	10	302		10	330		10	332		11	334		1	32		....	....		....	....
Arizona.....	8	300		8	298		8	295		9	293		1	....		....	....		....	....
Arkansas.....	67	1,740		50	1,611		72	2,002		77	2,200		10	451		....	....		....	....
California.....	117	6,280		100	6,323		107	6,181		119	5,812		2	....		....	....		....	....
Colorado & Wyoming.....	71	2,663		57	2,719		67	2,940		65	2,901		....	238		6	....		....	....
Connecticut.....	69	6,805		69	6,809		70	6,946		70	6,907		1	....		....	....		....	....
North Dakota.....	30	829		16	1,553		26	731		21	612		....	2		....	....		....	....
South Dakota.....	14	2,095		56	1,882		94	2,783		95	2,769		81	....		9	....		....	....
Tennessee.....	21	1,217		21	1,332		19	1,328		20	1,280		....	674		....	....		....	....
Delaware.....	16	480		16	446		17	414		17	435		1	....		1	....		....	....
Florida.....	7	407		9	385		17	432		10	455		1	....		....	....		....	....
Georgia.....	19	429		18	447		19	454		19	439		1	48		....	....		....	....
Illinois.....	591	32,355		592	32,568		596	32,641		600	32,469		9	10		....	....		....	....
Indiana.....	554	25,400		524	25,209		553	25,173		527	24,726		3	114		....	....		....	....
Iowa, Tex. & Oklahoma.....	20	634		20	634		17	605		20	605		20	605		....	....		....	....
Kansas.....	434	25,339		428	20,123		437	20,324		440	20,174		6	....		....	....		....	....
Kentucky.....	484	18,238		478	18,315		480	18,427		482	17,516		....	....		2	....		....	....
Louisiana.....	130	4,081		109	4,045		136	5,769		155	3,973		25	....		....	....		....	....
Louisiana & Mississippi.....	17	1,122		17	1,063		17	1,051		17	1,093		....	....		....	....		....	....
Maine.....	158	9,584		159	9,666		161	9,676		161	9,700		....	....		....	....		....	....
Massachusetts.....	201	22,446		203	23,458		205	23,592		206	23,781		3	116		....	....		....	....
Maryland.....	42	2,336		44	2,352		47	2,522		47	2,423		5	1,321		....	....		....	....
Michigan.....	373	20,810		362	20,158		376	20,742		383	19,280		10	....		....	....		....	....
Minnesota.....	105	7,556		148	7,096		176	8,201		182	7,947		17	....		....	....		....	....
Missouri.....	203	3,377		418	26,732		437	21,028		443	20,822		17	391		....	....		....	....
Montana.....	48	1,024		18	675		16	689		13	534		....	505		....	....		....	....
Nebraska.....	232	8,111		251	8,194		255	8,137		226	7,144		....	....		5	....		....	....
New Hampshire.....	93	5,641		93	5,127		93	5,127		94	5,211		1	....		....	....		....	....
New Jersey.....	113	7,669		113	7,767		113	7,732		113	7,799		3	170		....	....		....	....
New Mexico.....	12	340		12	340		10	299		22	292		10	....		....	....		....	....
New York.....	636	39,770		638	40,088		634	40,805		631	40,444		....	....		....	....		....	....
Ohio.....	712	41,648		725	46,119		733	49,011		738	45,552		26	674		5	....		....	....
Oregon.....	50	1,668		46	1,774		52	1,905		52	2,038		....	....		....	....		....	....
Pennsylvania.....	598	44,320		598	44,390		593	43,820		594	43,168		....	354		....	....		....	....
Potomac.....	23	3,176		24	3,430		24	3,465		24	3,512		....	....		....	....		....	....
Rhode Island.....	21	2,814		23	3,430		23	2,991		23	2,856		1	176		....	....		....	....
Tennessee.....	78	3,469		70	3,605		83	3,807		82	3,749		....	....		....	....		....	....
Texas.....	42	1,607		38	1,664		36	1,488		48	1,385		6	....		....	....		....	....
Utah.....	3	161		3	164		3	181		3	184		....	....		....	....		....	....
Vermont.....	105	5,272		107	5,301		103	5,473		110	5,467		....	....		....	....		....	....
Virginia.....	40	1,280		41	1,348		42	1,388		43	1,442		5	....		....	....		....	....
Washington & Alaska.....	60	2,215		58	2,321		59	2,312		65	2,783		4	....		....	....		....	....
West Virginia.....	82	2,651		80	2,614		82	2,671		63	2,747		5	568		....	....		....	....
Wisconsin.....	264	13,811		264	13,767		264	13,775		270	13,740		....	....		19	....		....	....
Totals.....	7,185	397,941		7,138	400,554		7,339	490,489		7,409	398,067		301	6,838		77	6,712		224	126	

RECAPITULATION.

Members in good standing June 30, 1890.....	397,941
Gain by Muster	31,373
Gain by Transfer.....	17,307
Gain by Reinstatement.....	13,446
Gain from Delinquent Reports.....	13,745
	<hr/>
Total gain.....	67,871
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Aggregate.....	465,812
Loss by Death.....	5,530
Loss by Honorable Discharge.....	1,849
Loss by Transfer.....	8,858
Loss by Suspension.....	30,496
Loss by Dishonorable Discharge.....	262
Loss by Delinquent Reports.....	20,750
	<hr/>
Total Loss.....	67,745
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Members in good standing June 30, 1891.....	398,067
Members remaining suspended.....	12,711
Members by Delinquent Reports.....	29,399
	<hr/>
Total in Suspension.....	42,101
	<hr/>
Total Members borne on Rolls June 30, 1891.....	440,168
Adding to this those out on transfer.....	4,139
who are, of course, still members of the Order, gives a	<hr/>
Total Membership of.....	444,307

This is the membership appearing in the reports as rendered, but it is not the full membership by reason of the fact that the Reports for the six months ending June 30th, are not yet all received. It is expected that they will, however be received in time for correction of these tables in the printed Journal of the Encampment.

The Order showed a steady, healthy growth and increase up to and including December 31, 1890, the net gains to that time for the two remaining quarters of 1890 being 11,548 members.

The returns for the period received at the time of printing this report for June 30, 1891, exhibit an apparent net loss of 11,422, which is manifestly not a correct showing. Indeed, it is known that there has been a large gain, but the time has been too limited to get the reports from all Posts since the close of the semi-annual period.

The result of the working of the semi-annual system of reports adopted at Boston at the 24th National Encampment and going into effect December, 31st, 1890, has thus far in my judgment been demoralizing and has not in any way resulted in good to the order.

The advantage claimed for it was the lessening of the number of reports to be made. This in practice has not yet proved an advantage. The very fact of reporting once in three months keeps up the interest on the part of officers reporting, while the small sums required as per capita dues quarterly are very much more easily paid than are the semi-annual payments which of course are double in amount.

The disadvantage of not having the March reports for reference is felt by the present administration with peculiar force, as so much pressure has been brought to bear to get in the reports to June 30th for publication for this encampment, held ten days earlier than the 24th and about four weeks earlier than the 23d, that they are not in many cases probably a correct index of the true condition of the Posts and Departments.

MUSTERED OUT BY DEATH.

The number of deaths during the year just closed were as follows:

Quarter ending September 30th, 1890.....	1241
“ “ December 31st, 1890.....	1485
“ “ June 30th, 1890.....	2304
Total Number.....	5530

This is the number as reported, the actual number being doubtless much greater.

EXPENDED IN CHARITY.

Year ending December 31, 1890.....	\$325,791.31
In the six months ending June 30, 91.....	224,866.08
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	\$550,657.39
For the year ending June 30, 1891....	333,699.85
From July 1, 1871 to July, 1, 1891.....	\$2,231,234.40

TABLE OF PROGRESSION

SHOWING THE MEMBERSHIP IN GOOD STANDING OF THE GRAND ARMY OF
THE REPUBLIC, DURING EACH QUARTER IN THE LAST
FOURTEEN YEARS.

QUARTERLY REPORTS.	1877.	1878.	1879.	1880.	1881.	1882.	1883.
1st quarter, March 31.....	25,446	26,902	37,777	49,099	61,847	83,965	146,183
2d quarter, June 30.....	22,617	28,274	35,961	55,260	70,726	106,096	173,811
3d quarter, September 30	25,749	28,715	38,664	59,353	77,203	119,354	199,447
4th quarter, December 31	27,179	31,016	44,752	60,634	85,856	134,701	215,446
Total gains each year ..	280	3,837	13,736	15,882	25,222	48,345	80,745

QUARTERLY REPORTS.	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.	1888.	1889.	1890.
1st quarter, March 31.....	233,595	269,694	295,337	320,936	354,216	375,534	392,893
2d quarter, June 30.....	256,258	275,623	299,891	336,540	361,194	382,598	397,620
3d quarter, September 30..	274,323	284,351	308,838	341,213	362,857	385,546	400,554
4th quarter, December 31..	273,168	294,787	323,571	355,916	372,900	397,974	409,489
Total gains each year..	57,772	21,619	28,784	32,345	17,044	25,014	11,515

NOTE.—For the six years prior to 1837, the membership of the Grand Army of the Republic was almost at a standstill, comprising on the average less than 26,000 Comrades for each year.

NEW DEPARTMENTS.

The Department of Indian Territory and Oklahoma, upon request of the Posts therein, was divided by the Commander-in-Chief by Special Orders No. 10, dated Headquarters G. A. R., Adjutant-General's Office, Rutland, Vt., June 22d, 1891, into the Department of Oklahoma and the Provisional Department of Indian Territory, the same to take effect July 1st, 1891, and Comrade E. Calkins of So. McAles-ter, I. T., was appointed Provisional Commander of said Pro-

visional Department. At a meeting of the Posts of said Provisional Department duly ordered and held at So. McAlester, I. T., July 3d, 1891, a permanent departmental organization was effected and Comrade Edward Calkins was elected Department Commander.

SUGGESTIONS AS TO POST OFFICERS.

The Adjutants and Quartermasters of Posts should be the best men possible to be obtained, fitness and ability to be the standard. Once broken in and doing well they should remain year after year. The Sergeant-Major and Quartermaster Sergeant respectively should be in training by assisting the Adjutant and Quartermaster, so as to succeed to the offices if capable, or serve in the absence of either. The delinquencies from which the whole Order suffers and which cut such a figure in the periodical statements and returns can almost invariably be traced to the failure on the part of Post Quartermasters to collect the dues each and every period, while the amount is small and easily paid by almost every Comrade. Once allowed to pass it is soon impossible to collect what has become a comparatively large sum, and the worthy Comrade who never intended to forfeit his membership is dropped for non-payment of dues and lost to the Order.

DEPARTMENTS.

Departments do the best which have fixed Headquarters and the same Assistant Adjutant-General for a term of years. The responsibility of the condition of a Department rests largely on this officer. The growth and stability of the Order would be greatly promoted by permanent location of the office and longer tenure of the officer. Many large Departments have adopted this policy and it will help the smaller ones even more in proportion. The Adjutant-General's office and that of each Assistant Adjutant-General should be fixed like that of the Post Adjutant if the best results are to be obtained.

It may be out of place in a mere summary of official work, but permit me to state that in some Departments, the change in location of Assistant Adjutant-General and the resumption of business and communication with this office took about four weeks. This occurring all along from January to May causes gaps in correspondence hard to fill and suspension of the receipt of orders from the Commander-in-Chief by the Posts, no matter how vital or important they may be, and works harm of all sorts.

This Order is not at its summit in point of members if some of the evils I have hinted at are remedied. It can and should be made to reach a membership of 600,000 or 700,000, but this must be done within five years if ever. I believe with work and proper organization it is quite possible, there being over 1,200,000 old soldiers now living.

The Department Encampments being held in so many different months from January to May makes the work and care much greater at Headquarters than if these Encampments were held say, all within two months and the changes incident thereto occurring at about the same time.

OFFICE WORK.

Orders and circulars issued.....	43
Copies distributed, including Decatur, Detroit and War Department matter sent these Headquarters for circulation, about....	650,000
Letters received and sent, including mimeograph circulars	11,000
Commissions issued.....	800
Special Orders issued.....	20

The labor attending the administration of the Adjutant-General's office cannot be expressed by giving the number of letters received or answered or the number of pieces of mail matter handled. From one cause or another, notably the death of a large number of our distinguished Comrades and other special matters voted and entailed upon us by preceding Encampments, the number of orders has increased, and as you held that all members of the National Encampment were entitled to receive a copy of all publications direct from this office, the number of each issue has also been somewhat

increased over that of former years. This matter if properly distributed by all the Departments and carefully read by Post officers to the Comrades cannot but have made some impression for good upon them. I am led to believe, however, that in some Departments and many Posts, more or less negligence attends the distribution of matter from Headquarters. It is needless to say it is prepared with some care and cost and should be promptly sent so as to reach in the end all the Comrades so they will know that this office is doing effectually the work for which it is maintained.

Needless expense sometimes results from hasty legislation. For instance, two years ago a new Ritual was voted. The next year the old Ritual was restored. This cost the Order in round numbers about three thousand dollars.

The legitimate needs of the Order are many and must be wisely and fully met for its highest success. The suggestion has come from many sources that the Order should soon begin to provide a sinking fund to meet the emergencies of old age with its diminishing membership and dues. This is worthy of consideration.

The migratory character of this office is necessarily fatal to any permanent accumulation of valuable books of reference, etc. I have, however, the present year secured a full set of the Volunteer Army Register, giving the muster-out roll of the commissioned officers of every Volunteer Regiment serving during the war of the Rebellion and have had them bound for preservation. I have also secured and had bound nearly all the Journals of the Department Encampments for 1888, 1889 and 1890, and have many of the paper copies of 1891. It has required not a little correspondence to effect this, and from several Departments no copies of their General Orders or other printed matter were received here until after repeated requests.

By direction of the Executive Committee I have arranged all the matter coming into my hands with a view to its being more easily transported, boxing each year's papers separately and labeling and numbering the boxes so that those not

needed daily may be stored. I have also exchanged an old desk and typewriter for a new one upon very advantageous terms; have also purchased a mimeograph which has saved more than its cost in printing, and also enables the office to issue circular letters, etc., that it is sometimes not desirable to print.

ROLL OF ENCAMPMENT.

The Twenty-Fifth National Encampment will be composed as follows:

National Officers	10
Members of the Council of Administration . .	43
Past National Officers	39
Department Officers	176
Past Department Commanders	386
Representatives at large and apportioned . .	451
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Total	1,105

NOTE.—Vacancy—Oklahoma to be filled and this Encampment will elect the first member of the National Council of Administration for the Department of Indian Territory, when there will be forty-five.

In this list all deceased members are noted and the date of decease of all Past National Officers given.

As above intimated the short time intervening between the close of the semi-annual period, June 30th, and this Encampment, renders it a work of great difficulty, practically impossible, to arrive at any exact knowledge of the true condition of the Order. Posts take a few days, sometimes weeks, and the Department officers must verify and consolidate the returns, taking at least a few days more, then the Adjutant General has to codify and print, so that as I have said the time is too short in which to accomplish what the Encampment has a right to expect. I would therefore suggest as one recommendation that the National Encampment be held not earlier than the 20th of August to enable this work to be more perfectly done.

But during this official year we have had other means of information than the periodical reports of Posts and Department officers, as called for by the Rules and Regulations. Early in your administration an order was prepared calling for monthly reports from all Aides appointed upon the staff, and specifying methods for the observations desired to be made by them. That feature has given these Headquarters a large amount of valuable information, grievances have been remedied, faults corrected, uniformity in work aided, weak Posts encouraged and a great amount of good done. Many of these staff officers have shown themselves industrious and zealous Comrades, willing to work for the Order and its interests, and these reports, coming as they have from all Departments, large and small, and being largely unbiased and impartial, as they were confidential in nature, have led me to believe that the Order is in a very vigorous state and may easily continue to be so if its members continue looking to the front and moving on in harmony.

Through the same media also we have been made aware of the great extent and enthusiasm attending the observance of the 25th anniversary of the founding of this Order and also of Memorial Day. Many of the former were very large in point of numbers attending, only limited by the capacity of the largest halls and churches in the country, and the exercises as reported fully rose to the dignity of the occasion. Your suggestion as to historical statements was heeded and a large amount of valuable matter has thereby been rescued from oblivion and will be preserved for others yet to come after us. The effect of the two anniversaries so closely following each other has been to put the whole people in very much closer touch with the Order, in my judgment, than ever before. At your suggestion I also procured and sent each Post a *facsimile* copy of the original Charter given the first Post by Comrade Stephenson, and I believe I am justified in saying that no Order has a more striking relic of the period of its formation.

DECISIONS.

The following decisions, based upon opinions of the Judge Advocate-General, have been made the current year, viz:—

I. Plurality of Departments. Under present regulations, several Departments cannot be formed having jurisdiction over the same State or Territory.

II. Honorable discharge removes the apparent stain of reported desertion.

III. Department Council of Administration may, for sufficient cause, change the place designated for the meeting of the next Department Encampment.

IV. Department Commander may establish new Posts, in his discretion. Adjoining Posts cannot question his exercise of this discretion.

V. Members of companies called into service by U. S. General Officers, on emergency, and dismissed when the emergency has passed, are not eligible.

VI. On Memorial Day, a Post may, in its discretion, halt on its way to or from a cemetery and attend a flag-raising or other ceremony of patriotic character.

VII. Honorable discharge removes the apparent stain of desertion.

VIII. Member of State Regiment is eligible, if the organization was called into active service and subject to orders of any U. S. General Officer.

IX. Compulsory muster into the Confederate army will not, alone, render one ineligible, if, before having performed military service of any kind, he escaped and joined the Union Army. But military service of any kind as a Confederate soldier, though compulsory, will disqualify.

X. A Past Post Commander, removing to another Department and joining Post there by transfer card, on removing back to his former Department and again joining Post there

by transfer card, retaining at all times good standing in the order, does not lose his honors as Past Post Commander.

XI. A Chaplain, duly commissioned and serving with his regiment, but never mustered into nor discharged from the U. S. service, is not eligible.

XII. Members of companies called into service by U. S. General Officers on emergency, and dismissed when the emergency has passed, are not eligible.

XIII. Reinstatement of one dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues, must, under the amended Regulation, be by ballot election, as in case of a recruit.

XIV. If a Comrade, on transfer card, is fully admitted by a Post without payment of admission fee, he becomes a member of the Post, and his name cannot be stricken from its rolls because of such omission.

XV. Election by single ballot of several persons for various offices. The ballots must designate for what office each person is voted for.

XVI. The Executive Committee, during the recess, properly exercises all the power of the National Council of Administration.

XVII. The Department of Kentucky was in a disorganized condition from 1874 to 1878; and a Comrade who in this interim made slight but futile attempts to organize it, with himself as Department Commander, is not entitled to rank as Past Department Commander.

XVIII. One dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues ceases to be a member of the order. To be reinstated he must, under the amended Regulation, pay the arrearages due his former Post; and be elected and pay admission fee as a recruit. But the admission fee is for the benefit of the Post; and if it admits him on payment of a less fee, the admission is valid.

XIX. One dropped from the rolls for non-payment of dues is outside the order. If he applies for reinstatement, pays arrearages and admission fee, and is elected, he must

present himself for obligation and muster within three months after notice of his election. Decision 24, Blue Book, Ed. 1891, page 76, 21-4, is overruled.

XX. A Chaplain duly commissioned and serving with his regiment, but never mustered into nor discharged from the U. S. service, is not eligible.

XXI. Sentence by court martial may be remitted by the Commander-in-Chief, on application, approved by intermediate authorities.

XXII. A Lieutenant of the U. S. Revenue Marine service is not eligible. The Regulation as to Eligibility admits of no constructive or equivalent service.

XXIII. Department Encampment may rescind vote entitling Past Post Commanders to seats.

XXIV. A Hospital Nurse is not eligible.

XXV. 1.—While the Commander-in-Chief will not, upon appeal, review the evidence, or revise the Sentence of a Department Court-Martial, he will examine its proceedings so far as to ascertain whether they are legal or void, and if void will annul them.

2.—A charge is futile, unless sustained by the facts and circumstances set forth in the specifications.



In reference to the matter of the return of the flag of the 75th Ohio Infantry, which was left in the hands of the Adjutant General to look after, I have corresponded through the Comrades at New Orleans with Mrs. Gen'l. H. T. Hays, who has had possession of the flag ever since it was captured at Gettysburg, and it has finally been turned over to Comrade Graham, Aid-de-Camp upon the staff of the Commander-in-Chief to be brought to Detroit and delivered to the representatives of the regiment alluded to.

The Headquarters flag, which has been in use so many years, having been substantially worn out in the service, a new flag has been procured, pursuant to vote of the National Council, which is made in conformity with the regulations now existing, and will be used for the first time at the Silver Anniversary Encampment at Detroit.


Many Posts of the country are engaged in procuring a biographical sketch of each of their respective Comrades. Such sketches will be a valuable acquisition, and the example which some Posts have set in this regard should become the rule throughout the Order.

To the Department officers, especially my brethren of the Adjutant General's Department, I wish to make the fullest acknowledgment for countless courtesies extended and for overlooking all faults of this office, but too well realized by me, though sometimes unavoidable. Few others can conceive of the Order as it is, or as it might be made to be, but to you, Comrades, one and all, I tender my sincere thanks for the great assistance you have rendered me in the discharge of my official duty.

Quartermaster General John Taylor, with whom I have have been in almost daily communication, I have ever found alive to the needs of the Order. Judge Advocate General Lochren and Inspector General Burst have been prompt and ready in matters referred to them by this office.

To you, Commander-in-Chief, with whom it has been my privilege to serve as Adjutant, as Asst. Adjutant General, as well as in this office, I can only say that each recurring period of service has made me the more sensible of the honor conferred upon me and of your high qualities as a Commander, Comrade and friend.

In F. C. and L.,


Adjutant-General.



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